

Johnson Plate and Tower Fabrication, Inc. to Open New Plant in Santa Teresa

Santa Teresa, New Mexico – On Friday, January 8th, Johnson Plate and Tower Fabrication, Inc., which produces the towers used for large wind turbines, announced that they will open a new plant in Santa Teresa. The plant will bring over 150 new clean energy jobs to the area. While Congressman Teague was traveling throughout the district on his “Solutions for Southern New Mexico” tour and could not be in attendance, he issued this statement:

Dear friends,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in this momentous announcement. I regret not being able to attend due to previous obligations.

Now, most of you know I'm an oil man. Always have been. Always will be.

When I was 17 years old, I went to work in New Mexico's oil fields for a dollar-fifty an hour, and I kept at it till I had my own company, employing 250 people. Over the years, I've done just about everything there is to do in oil and gas around Hobbs. There is nowhere else I'd rather have been, or anything else I'd rather have been doing.

A lot of people, however, didn't expect an oil man to run for Congress to promote energy independence through a focus on new clean energy. But that's what I did.

And even though that's what I did, those same people didn't think that the first bill I would introduce would be to extend the renewable electricity production tax credit, but I did that too. Then I went ahead and had it passed into law as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

And it is because of that bill and other key provisions in the economic recovery legislation, we are able to gather her to announce 150 clean energy jobs for the people of southern New Mexico!

As you now know, Johnson Plate and Tower Fabrication, Inc. will now be producing the towers

used for large wind turbines here in Santa Teresa. The company is the beneficiary of the ingenuity, hard work, and entrepreneurial spirit of its owners and workers. And it is also the beneficiary of smart federal policy to create new jobs in the new energy economy. Specifically, this project is benefiting from the renewable production tax credit and the Section 1302 tax credit, both included in the economic recovery legislation.

New Mexico needs to double up on energy jobs. We preserve and expand the conventional energy jobs we have. And we add wind, solar, biofuel, and geothermal jobs.

Everyone wins – especially the folks here in New Mexico who will have a job because we're investing in the new energy economy, and the Americans who can feel more secure knowing their energy is produced right here in America and not imported from foreign countries that don't like us.

Thank you very much. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard to make this day a reality, and congratulations to Johnson Plate and Tower for coming to the best place in the whole world to run an energy business.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague

Member of Congress

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